

IN HONOR OF THE ST. EDWARD'S
DEBATE TEAM AND COACH RICH-
ARD CHUNAT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of the St. Edward's High School Debate Team and its coach, Richard Chunat. For over thirty years, Coach Chunat has led the school's debate team to countless achievements, including recognition for excellence at the local, state, and national levels.

Over thirty years ago, Richard Chunat took the reins of the debate program at St. Edward's and has never looked back. As a teacher of English and speech, Coach Chunat provides a standard of excellence for the debate team. He has led the team to countless local titles, crowding the awards case at St. Ed's with over six hundred trophies. Under his leadership, the students have excelled in speech and debate, earning scholarships for their skills. As a coach, Richard Chunat was elected to the Ohio High School Coaches Hall of Fame for his exemplary service to the St. Edward's debate team.

Recently, two of Coach Chunat's students, Matt Perez-Stable and Jed Ware, continued the proud tradition at St. Edward's by performing remarkably well in the two-person team debate. Perez-Stable has received a full-tuition scholarship to Miami of Ohio; Ware has received a full-tuition scholarship to West Georgia State University. These two students exemplify the excellence that has become a tradition on the St. Edward's debate team.

My fellow colleagues, join me in saluting the St. Edward's High School debate team, Coach Richard Chunat, and students Matt Perez-Stable and Jed Ware for excellence in the field of debate.

HONORING DR. MICHAEL B. WALSH

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 1998

Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my constituents and the students, parents, teachers and administrators in honoring Dr. Michael B. Walsh upon his retirement as superintendent of the Smithtown Central School District. Dr. Walsh personifies that most effective educator who is not only recognized as a scholar in his field of specialization, but also is able to educate others through the effective example he creates in his own behavior.

His educational endeavors typify the true American success story. Beginning as a teacher of mathematics in the Levittown School District, Dr. Walsh quickly advanced through a series of leadership positions. As Chairman of the Mathematics Department of Smithtown Central High School, he introduced and supported several experimental programs that successfully enhanced the school's curriculum and resulted in increased student achievement. It soon became apparent to the leaders of the Smithtown Central School Dis-

trict that Michael Walsh possessed valuable and effective administrative and instructional talents that extended far beyond the area of mathematics and would serve to enhance the comprehensive program that was being offered by the district. Dr. Walsh became a Central Office Administrative Intern and went on to assume the positions of Assistant to the Superintendent for Central Administration and Administrator for Operations. In 1982, he joined the Amityville School District and, during a ten year tenure, served as the district's Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent. In 1992, he returned to Smithtown to assume the district's superintendency. Realizing the impact rapidly changing technology would have on our students' lives, he was most instrumental in developing a partnership with Symbol Technology in creating a wireless transmission component that would link the schools in a classroom setting.

Dr. Walsh's talents have been recognized outside the Smithtown District. He serves as an Adjunct Instructor of Educational Administration at the School of Professional Development at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. He is secretary of the Suffolk County School Superintendent's Association and is a member of the House of Delegates of the New York State Committee of School Superintendents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing these honors Dr. Walsh so richly deserves. It is a most effective teacher who can create positive change in a classroom. Dr. Michael B. Walsh has had an impact far beyond the classroom and his great talents have enhanced and fulfilled our community.

**THE ST. COLUMBA HEALTH
CENTER**

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 1998

Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a project in my home state of New Jersey that deserves recognition: the St. Columba Health Center in Newark.

A pressing problem in our nation's cities is the lack of affordable, accessible health care to the children of working families. Thanks to a quarter of a million dollar grant by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation of Princeton, the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Nursing has expanded its Health Center at the St. Columba Neighborhood Club and School.

The St. Columba Health Center serves the needs of the local Hispanic community by acting as a triage that effectively screens and treats less serious injuries and ailments, thus reducing reliance on expensive hospital services. A nurse practitioner provides on-site primary care through a collaborative practice agreement with UMDNJ pediatricians. The local University Hospital provides clinical and administrative support, as well as transportation of local patients who need complex treatments. By advancing primary pediatric and adolescent care at the St. Columba Health Center, the program hopes to expand the definition of urban child health care and serve as a model for future programs.

Education plays a key role at the health Center, as its members reach out into the school and community with needed information on the treatment and prevention of many health conditions. Examples include asthma, immunizations and domestic violence.

One major education component is the "Baby Think it Over Program," designed to combat high teenage pregnancy rates. For one week, participating seventh- and eighth-grade girls and boys must care for a computerized baby that is programmed to cry randomly, like a real baby. Only the student is allowed to provide around-the-clock care for the doll, which accompanies them at home, school, and even the mall.

During a recent visit, a past graduate of the program, Maria Rivera, told me how she received \$125 in play money—about the amount of a welfare check—and asked to develop a weekly budget for the baby's medical check-ups and to purchase diapers, formula, clothing, and other baby needs. In simulating these parental responsibilities, the purpose is to make the teens keenly aware of the consequences of unwanted pregnancies. And it works. As a result of this experience, Maria expressed a more realistic perspective on pregnancy and her intentions to delay having a baby until she is married.

The overall expected outcomes of the expansion of the St. Columba Health Center include better child health care models; decreased school absenteeism, emergency room and hospital admissions; and the reduction of teen pregnancies and STD rates, among many more.

Thank you to the volunteers and employees of the St. Columba Health Center, Neighborhood Club and School and who make a daily difference in the surrounding community. I also commend the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for providing the vital financial support to this program and others across the nation.

A TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH AND DOROTHY BUCHTA A CELEBRATION OF
50 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 1998

Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. Speaker, I rise today and would like to extend my warmest congratulations to two dear friends of mine from my district, Joseph and Dorothy Buchta, as they celebrate 50 years of married life.

Joseph and Dorothy Buchta were married on June 12, 1948 at Our Lady of Holy Mount Church in Cicero, Illinois. They will soon be celebrating with their family and friends their 50th wedding anniversary.

As Joseph and Dorothy Buchta celebrate their anniversary, their example of 50 years of married life tells the world and each other that their love has grown deeper and stronger over the years. Their commitment to each other is an inspiration to all of us who will celebrate this happy occasion with them.

I would like to congratulate Joseph and Dorothy Buchta on their success and may their love, friendship and happiness grow more beautiful with every year that they share together.